



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BRAVO BATTERY, 1st BATTALION, 19th FIELD ARTILLERY
5960 ROTHWELL STREET
FORT SILL, OK 73503-6204

ATSF-KF-B

10 April 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR: Commander, Bravo Battery, 1ST Battalion, 19TH Field Artillery

SUBJECT: Graduation Letter, Class #34-18

Dear Bravo Battery Family and Friends,

Hello again to the Families of Bravo Battery! The Soldiers of Bravo Battery are proving their mettle every day. They are motivated, fit, knowledgeable, and ready to graduate! Before they do, however, there are still a few more weeks of rigorous mandatory training.

This is the time of the cycle when Families are anxious to make their travel plans to see their Soldier graduate. This newsletter will provide you with information you need in order to make your travel arrangements. **Until you have received confirmation from your Soldier, we strongly suggest that you not make any travel arrangements that cannot be changed.** Your Soldier has been instructed to contact you to confirm their eligibility.

While you are here at Fort Sill, we ask that you help us to preserve our training environment. Please do not smoke or use inappropriate language in or around the training area. Please wear appropriate attire; there is no dress code, but vulgar or distasteful slogans or exposures are unacceptable.

Finally, I consider you my personal guests during your stay here at Fort Sill. If there is anything I can do to accommodate you while you are here, please let me know. Please feel free to write or call if you have any questions (contact information is on page 2).

Graduation week will be very busy for your Soldier; however, we will be granting passes to the Soldiers. Soldiers who are in a **GRADUATING STATUS** will be authorized local passes in the Lawton/Ft Sill area. Soldiers who **are not** in a graduating status may be granted **on-post or 434th FA Brigade Area** passes on a case-by-case basis. Please note that a pass is a privilege that can be **revoked** if a Soldier is involved in any misconduct. This only happens rarely, but I just wanted to inform you of the policy so there are no surprises.

The Family Day Ceremony will take place on **Thursday, June 14th** on **Bravo Battery's Drill Pad** at **9:00 am**. The accomplishments of the Soldiers over the past 10 weeks will be recognized. Following this, I will highlight the pass policy and the schedule for Family Day and Graduation. Immediately thereafter, some of the Soldiers of Bravo Battery will

perform a demonstration to highlight their 10 weeks of training here at Fort Sill. Additionally, during this time, pictures, DVDs, Battery t-shirts, and refreshments will be offered by our Family Readiness Group for donations.

During Family Day activities, we will hold a brief formation where we will recognize some Soldiers for outstanding performance during the cycle. Upon conclusion of the activities, the Soldiers will be released on "pass" in the Lawton/ Fort Sill area. I will inform you on Family Day when Soldiers must return back to the battery.

The Graduation Ceremony will take place on **Friday, June 15th at 1:00 pm**, at **Cache Creek Chapel Complex**. During the graduation ceremony, please feel free to take pictures of your Soldier. The graduating class will be seated together and will not have the opportunity to socialize at this time. Immediately following the ceremony we will release your Soldiers to you on pass. This will give you a chance to see other Family Members and talk with the Drill Sergeants and Cadre. Again, I will inform you on when Soldiers must return back to the battery.

A brief formation will be held at Cache Creek Chapel Complex following graduation for the 13 and 14 series MOS's. The rest of your Soldiers will be released to you on pass immediately following graduation.

Some Soldiers may ship out to AIT that afternoon. Additionally, Soldiers who are staying at Ft. Sill for AIT (13/14 series MOS) will be reporting to **1-78th FA** or **30th ADA** Friday afternoon. They will have to in-process into AIT. I do not know if they are granted passes throughout the weekend (not overnight) if they still have family members present in the local community, if so, this pass will come from 1-78th FA or 30th ADA.

Most Soldiers will be leaving Fort Sill early on **June 14th or the 15th**. Those Soldiers who have later departure times may be granted a **BDE area** pass on a case-by-case basis, **dependent upon their departure schedule**. Again, please check with your Soldier to confirm his departure date before making definite plans.

It is ok to photograph and videotape graduation activities, however this permission does not extend to the rest of Fort Sill. Photography is also allowed of historical exhibits at the Fort Sill Museum, including those which are outdoors, but not of nearby family quarters and office buildings.

All civilian and military personnel entering Fort Sill must present a valid license at the gate. Please take into consideration that **all vehicles** are subject to being searched by the Fort Sill police based on the National Threat Level determined by the Department of Homeland Security.

There have been recent changes to access to Ft. Sill. A pass will be mailed home to the families that must be filled out. The names of all persons riding in a vehicle must be listed on the pass in writing. If there will be more than one vehicle, then you will need a pass for each vehicle. All persons of age will need a current photo I.D. It is strongly encourages for you to bring a current photo I.D. and/or driver's license, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance if asked to provide at the gates. If

you are driving a rental vehicle, you will also need to provide a copy of your rental agreement. **You must have this letter to present to the gate guards in order to facilitate access to the installation. If you have an issues in the process do not worry, you can visit the Visitor Control Center up to the morning of and still gain access on post for Family Day and Graduation.**

All civilian and military personnel entering Fort Sill must present a valid license at the gate. Please take into consideration that **all vehicles** are subject to being searched by the Fort Sill police based on the National Threat Level determined by the Department of Homeland Security.

Fort Sill Military Installation and the State of Oklahoma, mandate the wearing of seatbelts at all times while operating a vehicle. Additionally, the use of cellular phones while **driving** on Fort Sill is strictly prohibited. Passengers may use cell phones; however, **drivers may only use cell phones with the aid of “hands-free” or “speaker-phone” devices.** The Fort Sill police strictly enforce this rule for the safety of our installation.

After the terrorist attacks of 9/11, Congress set standards for identification cards, specifically driver’s licenses, known now as the REAL ID Act. The act sets minimum federal security standards for state-issued IDs and prohibits federal agencies from accepting the IDs that don’t meet the standards. On the effective date, you’ll need to have the new ID or be prepared to have other additional forms of identification to get a pass for access to federal installations.

Please go to <http://sill-www.army.mil/vcc/> and click on “What is Real ID” for more information.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOS A. WALDEN
CPT, FA
Commanding